WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus of estimating a lifetime of a cutter for cutting a sheet comprising:

a detector for detecting a value of a parameter representing a cutting resistance during sheet cutting;

a comparator for comparing the detected value of the parameter with a predetermined reference value; and

an output element for outputting a result based on the comparison.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a motor for driving the cutter, wherein the parameter is a value of a current loaded on the motor.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the detector comprises an ammeter for measuring the value of the current.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the parameter is a time that is required from beginning to completion of cutting.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the detector comprises a timer element for measuring said time required.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the comparator determines that the cutter is unfit for use when the value of the parameter exceeds the predetermined reference value.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the comparator is included in a microcomputer.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the output element comprises a visual display.

9. A method of estimating a lifetime of a cutter for cutting a sheet comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a value of a parameter representing a cutting resistance during sheet cutting;

(b) comparing the detected value of the parameter with a predetermined reference value; and

(c) outputting a result based on the comparison.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the parameter is a value of a current that is loaded onto a motor for driving the cutter.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the parameter is a time that is required from beginning to completion of cutting.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein it is determined that the cutter is unfit for use when the value of the parameter exceeds the predetermined reference value.

13. A sheet cutter for cutting a sheet piece from a sheet by shearing, the sheet

cutter comprising:

a fixed blade;

a movable blade which is movable along the fixed blade; and

a life estimation element for estimating a life span of the movable blade.

14. The sheet cutter of claim 13, wherein the life estimation element comprises:

a detector for detecting a value of a parameter representing a cutting resistance during sheet cutting;

a comparator for comparing the detected value of the parameter with a predetermined reference value; and

an output element for outputting a result based on the comparison.

15. The sheet cutter of claim 14, further comprising a motor for driving the cutter, wherein the parameter is a value of a current loaded on the motor.

16. The sheet cutter of claim 14, wherein the parameter is a time that is required from beginning to completion of cutting.

17. The sheet cutter of claim 14, wherein it is determined that the cutter is unfit for use when the value of the parameter exceeds the predetermined reference value.

18. A sheet cutter for cutting a sheet piece from a sheet by shearing, the sheet

cutter comprising:

a fixed blade;

a movable blade which is movable along the fixed blade;

a receiving element which receives the sheet piece that is cut off from the sheet, the receiving element being structured so as to be movable together with the movable blade; and

a life estimation element for estimating a life span of the movable blade.

19. The sheet cutter of claim 18, further comprising a support for supporting the movable blade and a support for supporting the receiving element, the supports being substantially integral with each other.

20. The sheet cutter of claim 18, wherein the movable blade comprises a disk which is rotatably supported, and the receiving element comprises a roller which is rotatably supported.

21. The sheet cutter of claim 18, wherein the receiving element has a groove that receives an edge portion of the piece of sheet which is cut off, which edge portion is in a state in which it hangs down after cutting.